YA Death and Dying



Defining Dulcie by Paul Acampora

YA F ACA

When sixteen-year-old Dulcie's father dies, her mother makes a decision to move them to California, where Dulcie makes an equally radical decision to steal her dad's old truck and head back home.



Jimi & me by Jaime Adoff

YAFADO

After his father's tragic death, twelve-year-old Keith James moves from Brooklyn to a small midwestern town where his mixed race heritage is not accepted, but he finds comfort in the music of Jimi Hendrix and the friendship of a white classmate.



Freefall by Ariela Anhalt

YAFANH

Briar Academy senior Luke prefers avoiding conflict and letting others make his decisions, but he is compelled to choose whether or not to stand by the best friend whose reckless behavior has endangered Luke and may have caused another student's death.



Freeze frame by Heidi Ayarbe

YA F AYA

Fifteen-year-old Kyle believes he does not deserve to live after accidentally shooting and killing his best friend.



Border crossing by Jessica Lee Anderson

YAFAND

Manz, a troubled fifteen-year-old, ruminates over his Mexican father's death, his mother's drinking, and his stillborn stepbrother until the voices he hears in his head take over and he cannot tell reality from delusion.



Friend; of the heart = Amici del cuore by Kate Bank;

YA F BAN

During a summer at her grandparents' Italian seaside home, thirteen-year-old Lucrezia faces a changing relationship with her best friend Oliver and great personal tragedy.



Walk softly, Rachel by Kate Banks

YA F BAN

When fourteen-year-old Rachel reads the journal of her brother, who died when she was seven, she learns secrets that help her understand her parents and herself.



Tiger eyes: a novel by Judy Blume

YA F BLU

Resettled in the "Bomb City" with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City.



Stealing death by Janet Lee Carey

YAFCAR

After losing his family, except for his younger sister Jilly, and their home in a tragic fire, seventeen-year-old Kipp Corwin, a poor farmer, must wrestle with death itself in order to save Jilly and the woman he loves.



word The forbidden bookstore: sword by Da Chen

YAF CHE

When Miu Miu turns fifteen, she learns the truth about her father's violent death and discovers that she must avenge his murder before she can marry the man to whom she is betrothed. Based on a story told to the author by a former prisoner during China's Cultural Revolution.



The turning by Gillian Chan

YA F CHA

After his mother's death, sixteen-year-old Ben is angry and his estranged father takes him to England in hopes of repairing their damaged relationship.



Feels like home by e. E. Charlton-Trujillo

YA F CHA

Following the death of their father, seventeen-year-old Michelle's older brother--who had disappeared six years earlier--returns to their small Texas town where, with the help of S.E. Hinton's "The Outsiders," the two siblings try to find a way to move beyond a past tragedy.



Shelter by Beth Cooley

YA F COO

Following her father's death and the discovery of his debts, high school sophomore Lucy moves with her mother and brother from their upper-middle-class neighborhood into a homeless shelter where she tries to come to terms with her new life.



The terrorist by Caroline B. Cooney

VAFCOO

Sixteen-year-old Laura, an American living in London, tries to find the person responsible for the death of her younger brother Billy, who has been killed by a terrorist bomb.



Deadline by Chris Crutcher

VAFCRU

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."



Take me there by Carolee Dean

YA F DEA

After violating his parole, seventeen-year-old, semi-literate Dylan Dawson drives from California to Texas to try to see his father on death row in an attempt to figure out how his own life has gone so terribly awry.



The truth about forever by Sarah Dessen

YA F DES

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.



Waves by Sharon Dogar

YAF DOG

Hal feels eerily connected to his comatose older sister as she hovers between life and death in a hospital. Hal believes his sister is trying to communicate with him as he tries to solve the mystery of her accident.



A swift pure cry by Siobhan Dowd

YA F DOW

Coolbar, Ireland, is a village of secrets and Shell, caretaker to her younger brother and sister after the death of their mother and with the absence of their father, is not about to reveal hers until suspicion falls on the wrong person.



Everything is fine by Ann Dee Ellis

YA F ELL

When her father leaves for a job out of town, Mazzy is left at home to try to cope with her mother, who has been severely depressed since the death of Mazzy's baby sister.



Frannie in piece; by Delia Ephron

YA F EPH

When fifteen-year-old Frannie's father dies, only a mysterious jigsaw puzzle that he leaves behind can help her come to terms with his death.



Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

YAFFLE

While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.



Swalking on glass by Alma Fullerton

YAF FUL

A teenage boy recounts, in a free verse journal, his attempts to come to terms with the realities of his mother's near-death coma.



Say the word by Jeannine Garsee

YA F GAR

After the death of her estranged mother, who left Ohio years ago to live with her lesbian partner in New York City, seventeen-year-old Shawna Gallagher's life is transformed by revelations about her family, her best friend, and herself.



Ostrich boys by Keith Gray

YA F GRA

After their best friend Ross dies, English teenagers Blake, Kenny, and Sim plan a proper memorial by taking his ashes to Ross, Scotland, an adventure-filled journey that tests their loyalty to each other and forces them to question what friendship means.



Looking for Alaska: a novel by John Green

YA F GRE

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.



Where I want to be by Adele Griffin

YA F GRI

Two teenaged sisters, separated by death but still connected, work through their feelings of loss over the closeness they shared as children that was later destroyed by one's mental illness, and finally make peace with each other.



Death benefits by Sarah N. Harvey

YA F HAR

Royce is miserable when his mother uproots him and drags him across the country to help look after his ailing, 95-year-old grandfather, an eccentric, cantankerous former cellist.



No more us for you by David Hernandez

YAFHER

Isabel and Carlos, both seventeen, find themselves growing closer after an unexpected accident forces them to confront both the harshness and the beauty of life.



The corps of the bare-boned plane by Polly Horvath

YAFHOR

When their parents are killed in a train accident, cousins Meline and Jocelyn, who have little in common, are sent to live with their wealthy, eccentric, and isolated Uncle Marten on his island off the coast of British Columbia, where they are soon joined by other oddly disconnected and troubled people.



The secret year by Jennifer R. Hubbard

YA F HUB

Reading the journal of the high-society girl he was secretly involved with for a year helps high school senior Colt cope with her death and come closer to understanding why she needed him while continuing to be the girlfriend of a wealthy classmate.



The Everafter by Amy Huntley

YA F HUN

After her death, seventeen-year-old Maddy finds a way to revisit moments in her life by using objects that she lost while she was alive, and by so doing she tries to figure out the complicated emotions, events, and meaning of her existence.



The day I killed James by Catherine Ryan Hyde

YAFHYD

Seventeen-year-old Theresa tries to get past the guilt she feels over the death of a neighbor who loved her, first through a journal her therapist tells her to keep, then by transforming herself and starting a new life.



Over a thousand hills I walk with you by Hanna Jansen

YAFJAN

Based on a true story, this haunting novel by Jeanne's adoptive mother makes unforgettably real the events of the 1994 Rwandan genocide as one family experienced it.



Finn's going by Tom Kelly

YA F KEL

A ten-year-old English boy decides to run away after the sadness at home becomes unbearable following the death of his twin brother.



Please ignore Vera Dietz by A.S. King

YAFKIN

When her best friend, whom she secretly loves, betrays her and then dies under mysterious circumstances, high school senior Vera Dietz struggles with secrets that could help clear his name.



Alabama moon by Watt Key

YA F KEY

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.



Deadville by Ron Koertge

YA F KOE

While visiting an injured classmate in the hospital, sixteen-year-old Ryan, who is trying to come to terms with his sister's death from cancer, meets a young patient who claims to be able to see into the world where the dead live.



Upstream by Melissa Lion

YA F LIO

After her boyfriend is killed in a hunting accident, Alaska high-school-senior Marty, with help from her mother and two younger sisters, tries to get over her grief and begin a new life.



The piper's son by Melina Marchetta

YAF MAR

After his favorite uncle's violent death, Tom Mackee watches his family implode, quits school, and turns his back on music and everyone who matters, and while he is in no shape to mend what is broken, he fear that no one else is, either



JOHN MARSDEN Hamlet: a novel by John Marsden

YA F MAR

Grieving for the recent death of his beloved father and appalled by his mother's quick remarriage to his uncle, Hamlet, heir to the Danish throne, struggles with conflicting emotions, particularly after his father's ghost appeals to him to avenge his death.



Rose by any other name by Maureen McCarthy

YA F MCC

During a road trip with her mother from Melbourne to Fairy Point, Australia, to see her dying grandmother, nineteen-year-old Rose gains a new perspective on events of the previous year, when family problems, the end of a long-term friendship, and bad personal choices dramatically transformed her near-perfect life.



If I should die before I wake by Lurlene McDaniel

YA F MCD

Fourteen-year-old Deanne is not cut out to be the socialite her mother wants her to be. Instead she becomes a VolunTeen at the children's hospital where her father works, eventually working on the oncology floor, helping kids with cancer deal with their illness. But when one of her patients dies, can she continue?



Mother, please don't die by Lurlene McDaniel

YAFMCD

Thirteen-year-old tomboy, Megan McCaffery is just beginning to enjoy growing up when her mother is diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. Suddenly, her life is turned upside down, her hurt and anger coming between Megan and everyone she cares about, until she realizes what her real priorities are.



Why did the have to die? by Lurlene McDaniel

YAFMCD

Thirteen-year-old Elly Rowan is living in the shadow of her 14-year-old "perfect" sister, Kathy, the golden child in the family. Suddenly, Kathy is gone and Elly is left to find her way alone, rather than follow in Kathy's footsteps.



Cashay by Margaret McMullan

YAFMCM

When her world is turned upside down by her sister's death, a mentor is assigned to fourteenyear-old Cashay to help her through her anger and grief.



Jeremy Fink and the meaning of life by Wendy Mass

YA F MAS

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.



Missing girls by Lois Metzger

YA F MET

During eighth grade, Carrie moves in with her grandmother, becomes friends with an indrawn classmate, and comes to terms with her mother's death.



All we know of heaven: a novel by Jacquelyn Mitchard

YAFMI1

When Maureen and Bridget, two sixteen-year-old best friends who look like sisters, are in a terrible car accident and one of them dies, they are at first incorrectly identified at the hospital, and then, as Maureen achieves a remarkable recovery, she must deal with the repercussions of the accident, the mix-up, and some choices she made while she was getting better.



Echo by Kate Morgenroth

YAF MOR

After Justin witnesses his brother's accidental shooting death, he must live with the repercussions, as the same horrific day seems to happen over and over.



The sky is everywhere by Jandy Nelson

YA F NEL

In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.



Surf mules by G. Neri

YAFNER

When a tragic accident and sudden financial woes cause recent high school graduate Logan to question plans for his future, he agrees to make a road trip with his best friend and surfing buddy, Z-boy, transporting marijuana from southern California to Orlando, Florida.



A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

YA F NES

Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.



The leanin' dog by K.A. Nuzum

YA F NUZ

In wintry Colorado during the 1930s, eleven-year-old Dessa Dean mourns the death of her beloved mother, but the arrival of an injured dog and the friendship they form is just what they need to change their lives forever.



Before I fall by Lauren Oliver

YA F OLI

After she dies in a car crash, teenage Samantha relives the day of her death over and over again until, on the seventh day, she finally discovers a way to save herself.



Dirty little secrets by C.J. Omololu

YAFOMO

When her unstable mother dies unexpectedly, sixteen-year-old Lucy must take control and find a way to keep the long-held secret of her mother's compulsive hoarding from being revealed to friends, neighbors, and especially the media.



Cures for heartbreak by Margo Rabb

VA F RAB

As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love in the world around her.



Under the wolf, under the dog by Adam Rapp

YAFRAP

Sixteen-year-old Steve struggles to make sense of his mother's terminal breast cancer and his brother's suicide.



Zen & Xander undone by Amy Kathleen Ryan

YA F RYA

Two teenaged sisters try to come to terms with the death of their mother in very different ways



ISS ANN SANDELL A map of the known world by Li\$a Ann \$andell

YA F SAN

Devastated, along with her parents, by the death of her older brother and apprehensive about being a freshman in the same high school he attended, fourteen-year-old Cora finds unexpected solace in art.



🕍 Kotuku by Deborah Savage

YA F SAU

Still having difficulty facing the death of her best friend, Wim must deal with a difficult greataunt and Maori visitors from New Zealand who uncover a dark family secret.



Trouble by Gary D. Schmidt

YA F SCH

Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.



You are not here by Samantha Schutz

YA F SCH

Annaleah's grief over the tragic death of seventeen-year-old Brian is compounded by the fact that her friends did not like him, while his friends and both of their families knew nothing of their intimate relationship.



One of the survivors by Susan Shaw

YAF SHA

When his classmates die in a school fire, fourteen-year-old Joey is haunted by their deaths and struggles to survive amidst suspicion and anger from the town.



Possessing Jessie by Nancy Springer

YA F SPR

High school senior Jessie, blaming herself for her selfish, manipulative brother Jason's death, tries to comfort her bereft mother by dressing and talking like him, but soon his spirit is taking over her life, while Jessie's best friend Alisha desperately tries to save her.



The way he lived by Emily Wing Smith

YAF SMI

When Joel Espen, a closeted gay 16-year-old, dies of thirst on a Boy Scout hiking trip, it shakes the small Mormon town of Haven, Utah, to its socially conformist foundation. And the six teens who had been closest to Joel start to view their community--and themselves--in a new light.



The house of djinn by Suzanne Fisher Staples

YA F STA

An unexpected death brings Shabanu's daughter, Mumtaz, and nephew, Jameel, both aged fifteen, to the forefront of an attempt to modernize Pakistan, but the teens must both sacrifice their own dreams if they are to meet family and tribal expectations.



Nothing like you by Lauren Strasnick

YA F STR

Six months after her mother's death, seventeen-year-old Holly finds some happiness in a secret affair with Paul, a boy she barely knows, but after becoming friends with Paul's girlfriend, Saskia, Holly worries that her best friend, Nils, or Saskia will learn the devastating truth.



Fall for anything by Courtney Summers

YA F SUM

As she searches for clues that would explain the suicide of her successful photographer father, Eddie Reeves meets the strangely compelling Culler Evans who seems to know a great deal about her father and could hold the key to the mystery surrounding his death.



Broken soup by Jenny Valentine

YAFUAL

A photographic negative and two surprising new friends become the catalyst for healing as fifteen-year-old Rowan struggles to keep her family and her life together after her brother's death.



Remembering Raquel by Vivian Vande Velde

YA F VAN

Various people recall aspects of the life of Raquel Falcone, an unpopular, overweight freshman at Quail Run High School, including classmates, her parents, and the driver who struck and killed her as she was walking home from an animated film festival.



Adios, nirvana by Conrad Wesselhoeft

YA F WES

As Seattle sixteen-year-old Jonathan helps a dying man come to terms with a tragic event he experienced during World War II, Jonathan begins facing his own demons, especially the death of his twin brother, helped by an assortment of friends, old and new.



See what I see by Gloria Whelan

YAFWHE

When eighteen-year-old Kate arrives on the Detroit doorstep of her long-estranged father, a famous painter, she is shocked to learn that he is dying and does not want to support her efforts to attend the local art school.



Blind faith by Ellen Wittlinger

YA F WIT

While coping with her grandmother's sudden death and her mother's resulting depression and fascination with a spiritualist church, whose ministers claim to communicate with the dead, fifteen-year-old Liz finds herself falling for a new neighbor whose mother is dying of cancer.



Behind you by Jacqueline Woodson

YA F WOO

After fifteen-year-old Jeremiah is mistakenly shot by police, the people who love him struggle to cope with their loss as they recall his life and death, unaware that 'Miah is watching over them.



Rubber houses by Ellen Yeomans

YA F YEC

A novel in verse that relates seventeen-year-old Kit's experiences as her younger brother is diagnosed with and dies of cancer and as she withdraws into and gradually emerges from her grief.



Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin

YA F ZEV

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Non-Fiction:



The grieving teen: a guide for teenager; and their friend; by Helen Fitzgerald YA 155.9 FIT

Discusses special needs of adolescents struggling with loss and gives them the tools they need to work through their pain and grief.



Sometimes life sucks: when someone you love dies by Molly Carlile VA 155.037 CAR

A thorough, gentle book for teens to navigate their personal experience of grief, and for parents and teachers to use with teens struggling with loss Whether it's the death of a grandparent, pet, school friend, a teen fatality, a peer with terminal illness, living without a parent, or the death of a celebrity, teenagers experience loss in many ways and must struggle to come to terms with their shock and grief.



When a friend dies: a book for teens about grieving & healing by Marilyn When a friend dies: a book for teens about grieving & healing by Marilyn YA 155.937 GOO

With a new Foreword by the lead singer of R.E.M., this revised edition of Gootman's helpful guide includes new resources and a new section on losing a friend through violence.

Recommended for parents and teachers of teens who have experienced a painful loss.



Death: corpses, cadavers, and other grave matters by Elizabeth A. YA 616.075 MUR

Matters of life and death -- The body in crisis -- Death's timetable -- At death's doorstep -- Manner and cause of death -- All that remains: postmortem changes -- Death benefits: life after death.

Suicide:



Thirteen reasons why: a novel by Jay Asher

YA F ASH

When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.



Last December by Matt Beam

YA F BEA

Written in the form of a suicide note from a teenaged boy to his unborn sister, tells the story of how a ninth-grader comes to accept his less than ideal life after witnessing the struggles of a friend with serious depression.



Crash into me by Albert Borris

YA F BOR

Four suicidal teenagers go on a "celebrity suicide road trip," visiting the graves of famous people who have killed themselves, with the intention of ending their lives in Death Valley, California.



The Cupid war: all love is warfare by Timothy Carter

YAFCAR

Seventeen-year-old Ricky Fallon was contemplating suicide when he slipped and fell, only to find himself a Cupid in the afterlife, but between the bad boss, a pink bodysuit, and attacks from shadowy entities called Suicides, he is not feeling much love.



You know where to find me by Rachel Cohn

YAFCOH

In the wake of her cousin's suicide, overweight and introverted seventeen-year-old Miles experiences significant changes in her relationships with her mother and father, her best friend Jamal and his family, and her cousin's father, while gaining insights about herself, both positive and negative.



Stay with me by Garret Freymann-Weyr

YAFFRE

When her sister kills herself, sixteen-year-old Leila goes looking for a reason and, instead, discovers great love, her family's true history, and what her own place in it is.



Suicide notes by Michael Thomas Ford

YAFFOR

Brimming with sarcasm, fifteen-year-old Jeff describes his stay in a psychiatric ward after attempting to commit suicide.



The anatomy of wings by Karen Foxlee

YAFFOX

After the suicide of her troubled teenage sister, eleven-year-old Jenny struggles to understand what actually happened.



What happened to Cass McBride? : a novel by Gail Giles YA F GIL

After his younger brother commits suicide, Kyle Kirby decides to exact revenge on the person he holds responsible.



Looking for Alaska by John Green

YAFGRE

Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.



Impulse by Ellen Hopkins

YAFHOP

Three teens who meet at Reno, Nevada's Aspen Springs mental hospital after each has attempted suicide connect with each other in a way they never have with their parents or anyone else in their lives.



hold still Hold still by Nina LaCour

YAFLAC

Ingrid didn't leave a note. Three months after her best friend's suicide, Caitlin finds what she left instead: a journal, hidden under Caitlin's bed.



By the time you read this, I'll be dead by Julie Anne Peters

High school student Daelyn Rice, who's been bullied throughout her school career and has more than once attempted suicide, again makes plans to kill herself, in spite of the persistent attempts of an unusual boy to draw her out.



Trigger by Susan Vaught

YA F VAU

Teenager Jersey Hatch must work through his extensive brain damage to figure out why he decided to shoot himself.



Glimpse by Carol Lynch Williams

YA F WIL

Living with their mother who earns money as a prostitute, two sisters take care of each other and when the older one attempts suicide, the younger one tries to uncover the reason.



What they always tell us by Martin Wilson

YA F WIL

Sixteen-year-old Alex feels so disconnected from his friends that he starts his junior year at a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, high school by attempting suicide, but soon, a friend of his older brother draws him into cross-country running and a new understanding of himself.

Non-fiction:



The power to prevent suicide: a guide for teens helping teens by Richard E.

Learn how to help people who are considering suicide

YA 362.28 NEL



FAQ about suicide by Sandra Giddens

YA 616.858 GID

A guide intended to assist teens at risk for suicide and or who know someone else in a potentially suicidal situation.



Gays and mental health: fighting depression, saying no to suicide by Jaime A. Şeba YA 616.89 ŞEB

Explores homosexuality in places outside the United States.



Eight stories up: an adolescent chooses hope over suicide by DeQuincy A. YA 618.928

In straightforward, easy-to-understand language, and drawing on the psychiatric expertise of David Brent, MD, Lezine discusses the potential causes of suicide in adolescents, how to seek psychiatric treatment, and how to get the most out of professional help. He also surveys some of the therapies used to prevent suicide, how to talk to loved ones about suicidal thoughts, and how to stay healthy at home and at school.